

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of
Northern States Power Company
for Approval of its Resource
Plan

ISSUE DATE: March 11, 1992

DOCKET NO. E-002/RP-91-682

ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO
INTERVENE AND PETITION FOR TIME
EXTENSION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 12, 1991, the Commission issued an Order in Docket No. E-002/M-91-6 allowing Northern States Power Company (NSP or the Company) to file its biennial integrated resource plan, required under Minn. Rules, parts 7843.0100 to 7843.0600, on October 1, 1991 instead of the previously established deadline, July 1, 1991. That Order required interested parties to intervene and file comments on the Company's filing by February 1, 1992.

On October 1, 1991, NSP filed its resource plan pursuant to Minn. Rules, parts 7843.0100 to 7843.0600 and the Commission's February 12, 1991 Order.

On December 13, 1991, the Commission issued an Order granting the petitions to intervene filed by Metalcasters of Minnesota, the City of St. Paul, and the St. Paul Board of Water Commissioners.

On January 24, 1992, the Commission issue its ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT PERIOD in the current docket and in Docket No. E-002/M-91-6. In its Order, the Commission, among other things, extended the deadline for filing petitions to intervene and initial comments on NSP's proposed integrated resource plan until February 18, 1992. The Order also provided that responsive comments to the initial comments should be filed by April 14, 1992.

On February 14, 1992, the City of Minneapolis filed a petition to intervene and, in a separate petition, requested additional time to file initial comments in this matter.

On February 18, 1992, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3) filed petitions to intervene.

On February 25, 1992, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Petitions to Intervene

The Commission's January 24, 1992 Order in this matter extended the time for filing petitions to intervene to February 18, 1992. Due to this extension, the City of Minneapolis's petition to intervene filed February 14, 1992 and the petitions to intervene filed by the UCS and ME3 on February 18, 1992 were timely filed. Not being intervenors as of right, these three petitioners must show that they are "interested" within the meaning of Minn. Rules, part 7843.0300, subpart 7:

1. The City of Minneapolis

To demonstrate its "interest", the City of Minneapolis claimed that NSP's plan will have a substantial impact upon the citizens of Minneapolis and their environment and on the plans and policies of the City.

2. Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

UCS argued that it was "interested" based on the fact that its 1,500 members in Minnesota will be directly affected by NSP's plan. In addition, UCS cited its expertise in renewable energy technologies and the use of these technologies in utility planning.

3. Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3)

In support of its petition, ME3, a coalition including members from business, government and industry as well as from environmental, energy, consumer and other public interest groups, stated that it will raise issues of broad public concern such as the effect NSP's plan will have on the state's environment and economic well-being.

The Commission finds that each of these groups is "interested" within the meaning of Minn. Rules, part 7843.0300, subpart 7 and will, therefore, approve their petitions to intervene in this matter. In the belief that participation in this process by a broad array of groups with different interests will benefit the process, the Commission welcomes these intervenors and

anticipates that each will provide a valuable perspective on NSP's resource plan.

Request for Additional Time to File Initial Comments

The intervenors' initial comments on NSP's proposed resource plan were due February 18, 1992. NSP Resource Plan, Docket No. E-002/RP-91-682, ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT PERIOD, p. 2. On February 14, 1992, the City of Minneapolis requested an extension of time to March 19, 1992 to file its initial comments. The City further requested that it be allowed to file those comments subject to the approval of the Minneapolis City Council at the Council's meeting on March 27, 1992. In support of its requests, the City explained that it lacked certain information from NSP necessary to complete its comments and that its comments will become official only upon approval of the Minneapolis City Council at its March 27, 1992 meeting.

The Commission finds the City's reason for needing additional time to prepare its comments is reasonable and will grant the requested extension to March 19, 1992. In addition, since the Minneapolis City Council may wish to amend these comments following their review of them at its March 27, 1992 meeting, the City will be given until March 30, 1992 to amend its filing to reflect any changes that the Minneapolis City Council, upon review, may wish to make.

As indicated in the Commission's January 24, 1992 ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT PERIOD, responsive comments to the intervenors' comments will be due no later than April 14, 1992.

ORDER

1. The petitions to intervene in this matter filed by the City of Minneapolis, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), and Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3) are granted.
2. The request of the City of Minneapolis for an extension of time to file its initial comments is granted. The City shall file its initial comments no later than March 19, 1992.
3. No later than March 30, 1992, the City shall file any amendments to these comments which are required by changes adopted by the Minneapolis City Council at its March 27, 1992 meeting.

4. Responsive comments to the intervenors' comments shall be filed no later than April 14, 1992.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)